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No Raves From the Nixons

■ Even before director Oliver Stone's latest flick, "Nixon," opened today, Richard Nixon's family blasted as "erroneous and malicious" the depiction of the late, disgraced president and his wife.

Neither Julie Nixon Eisenhower nor Tricia Nixon Cox has seen the movie, Reuter reported, but the president's daughters nonetheless took issue with Anthony Hopkins's portrayal of Nixon as a profane, insecure pill-popper haunted by his two brothers' deaths and obsessed with the Kennedys, his political archenemies. The



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Cox, Eisenhower disapprove.

film also zeroes in on Nixon's alleged knowledge of a CIA plot to kill Fidel Castro that somehow, Stone seems to think, backfired into President Kennedy's murder.

The family statement, issued by the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, Calif., ripped Stone for

creating "imaginary scenes" of the Nixons' private life (Pat threatens divorce at one point) and for waiting until they died so they couldn't sue. But Stone has defended his latest marriage of fact and fiction as a work "somewhere between entertainment and history."

Also ripping the film was Diane Disney Miller, whose father, Walt Disney, founded the film company that produced "Nixon." In a letter to Tricia and Julie, she called the movie a "disturbing distortion of history."

Actress Joan Allen, who plays a long-suffering, chain-smoking Pat Nixon, told The Source yesterday that "I feel very badly that they are upset, but I feel that any depiction would be painful for them. I felt the rendering of both [Nixons] was quite compassionate."

Allen knew precious little about her character, relying "almost totally" on a 1972 Barbara Walters interview for clues about Mrs. Nixon's speech. Since the first lady didn't smoke in public, Allen (a nonsmoker) improvised there, too, transforming the ordinary cigarette into an exquisitely expressive appendage. "She was sort of dragged through life by this man possessed by politics. I liked her tremendously once I started working on the film."